

NEW SERIES OF LETTERS BY FRANK G. CARPENTER

Famous Writer and Traveler Will Tell Times-Dispatch Readers of the "New Alaska."

FAST TERRITORY DEVELOPING

Country as It Is To-Day on Eve of New Era, Brought About by Railroad, Will Be Described—Unknown World Revealed.

Beginning with the first Sunday in January, the Richmond Times-Dispatch will publish a series of letters on the "New Alaska." These letters will describe the country as it is to-day on the eve of its rapid development by this government and people. They will picture the great territory that is soon to be opened up by the new railroads Uncle Sam is now building, and will give the latest information about a region that will be discussed in Congress during the coming session. The letters will be written by Frank G. Carpenter, who has spent the most of the past year in gathering the material and visiting every accessible part of the Territory.

Mr. Carpenter went to Alaska shortly after the breaking up of the ice last spring. He sailed from island to island through the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country, and visited much of the coast line, which, all told, is longer than the distance around the world. He crossed the Alaska range over the White Pass Railway into the Yukon Valley and traveled several thousand miles on the Yukon and its tributaries. From the mouth of the Yukon he went to St. Michael and the Seward Peninsula, and from there crossed Bering Sea to the Aleutian Islands, the great archipelago that extends from our continent almost to Asia. He has also gathered material about the Eskimos and the few regions of the Arctic Ocean.

DEVOTED TO LANDS

OPENED BY NEW RAILWAY

A large part of Mr. Carpenter's trip was devoted to the lands to be opened up by the new government railway. That road is now building. It will be almost 400 miles long, and will throw open to settlement some of the richest of the farming lands of Alaska. It will tap the great coal mines of the Matanuska Valley and will connect the Seward, on Prince William Sound, with the great gulches of navigable waters which are furnished by the Yukon and its tributaries. The terminus of the new road is to be at Fairbanks, in the heart of Central Alaska, a city which Mr. Carpenter has visited, and which will be described.

During his trip Mr. Carpenter went from Seward across the Kenai Peninsula, which is to be traversed by the railroad. His travels there were largely on foot and on horseback, part of the way being through grass of the tundra, and a man's waist. Mr. Carpenter says the peninsula is half the size of Indiana, and that it will some day be covered with farms.

Further on in that part of his journey Mr. Carpenter went to Anchorage, the tent-and-shack metropolis now known up at the end of the railroad on Turnagain Arm. Anchorage is now the headquarters of the railroad construction. There Mr. Carpenter met the officials of the railroad commission and went about with the engineers and surveyors. His descriptions will show the work as it is now going on.

In other parts of the tour Mr. Carpenter visited the several private railroads that have been built in the territory, including the \$26,000,000 Copper River line owned by the Guggenheims. He will describe the construction and operation of these roads and draw lessons from them as to Uncle Sam's new experiment in government ownership. Many of Mr. Carpenter's letters will be of interest to money-makers, investors and young men who are looking about for places to settle and for new worlds to conquer. He will picture the farming regions of Alaska and show the advantages and disadvantages which they offer to homesteaders. He will also describe the gold camps and give many stories of fortune making, past and present, connected with them. He will treat of the great copper deposits, some of which are now producing millions of dollars per annum, and of the coal lands that are open to the prospector and the investor.

WILL INTRODUCE READERS

TO SCENIC WONDERS

Mr. Carpenter will also introduce you to the scenic wonders of Alaska, which, when the new railroads are finished, will make that country the summer playground of the United States. He will show you volcanoes, which ashes have sprinkled the world and glaciers which surpass in extent those of the Himalayas and the Alps. He will describe the summers that clothe the land with the most gorgeous vegetation, embracing myriads of flowers and wild berries of many varieties, and the ice-choked winters where the thermometer at times goes down to 70 degrees below zero. He will picture the big game of Alaska, the caribou, which roams about in herds of 10,000, the mighty moose and the bears, white and brown and black. The country is a fisherman's paradise, and its wild birds are numbered by millions. It is, in short, a new world, and one, through these letters, now to be opened up to Times-Dispatch readers.

NORMAL SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

No institution in the State perhaps has brought to bear upon the public schools more direct and potent influence than that of the Farnville State Normal School for the past two decades. Upward of 1,000 graduates have gone out from this school to teach in Virginia, and their professional training has counted heavily for the improvement of public education during a period in which a large majority of teachers had no special preparation for their work. From the first single pro-

BETTER THAT SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bad-wetting. There is a constitutional cause for this trouble. Mrs. M. Summers, Box W, Notre Dame, Ind., will send free to any mother her successful home treatment, with full instructions. Send no money, but write to-day if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child, he chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adults and aged people troubled with urine difficulties day or night.

Tells of "New Alaska"



FRANK G. CARPENTER.

professional course for the public school teacher the school has grown and branched out until it now offers five different professional courses in addition to the four years of academic work. Sixteen high school units of work are now required for admission to these courses, and under these high requirements, there are 352 at Farnville this year doing professional work. It is very gratifying to note that in spite of the fact that the entrance requirements are constantly being made more rigid, the number of students enrolled in the professional courses is steadily increasing.

It always has been the purpose of the school to send into the State as teachers young women professionally trained, but on account of poor high school accommodations, many of the young women who entered were unqualified to pursue the professional courses and were forced to register for instruction in the high school or academic classes. This state of affairs, the normal school authorities have always deplored, and through the work of Dr. Jarman as president, the school has had no small share in showing the need of better high schools in the State, with the result that each year fewer girls come to the normal who are not ready to begin those studies bearing directly on teaching.

The following figures show very clearly the decrease in the academic enrollment and the increase in professional enrollment:

Academic 1909, 451; 1910, 385; 1911, 322; 1912, 303; 1913, 254; 1914, 221; 1915, 239.

Professional 1909, 245; 1910, 304; 1911, 339; 1912, 322; 1913, 268; 1914, 298; 1915, 352.

The academic or high school course has now reached the point at which it will remain—one section of each year's work. The sections of third and fourth years, for the benefit of the girls who come to the normal from unaccredited high schools, the first and second years to become a part of the training school, making it possible for this institution to send out trained high school teachers.

The following professional courses are now given at Farnville: Course I, two years, for kindergarten and first-grade teachers; Course II, two years, for teachers of primary grades; Course III, two years, for teachers of grammar grades; Course IV, three years, for high school teachers, and Course V, two years, for special teachers and supervisors of rural schools. Not only are the teachers sent out from this institution trained academically and professionally, but each one is also required to demonstrate by actual experience that she can teach before she receives her diploma. For the practice teaching of the seniors two training schools are operated. The one on the campus is an up-to-date school in every respect, housed in a fifteen-story, twenty-five room building with the best of modern school equipment. Twelve supervisors are designated to direct the practice teaching alone in this building, and gained here under close supervision where defects can be readily detected and remedied.

For the practice teaching of the rural school teachers the normal school authorities have felt that a rural school environment was needed, and hence the rural high school at Rice has been

secured for this purpose. The teachers reach this school on the Norfolk and Western and find here a school with the actual conditions under which they are to teach, and with just such problems as will present themselves in the most puzzling situation—the rural school.

WEST POINT

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WEST POINT, Va., December 23.—The Woman's Club held an important and interesting meeting this week in the home of Mrs. Samuel Tunstall Bland. The subject of the evening was "Made in the United States." A number of members spoke.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. W. S. Eastwood, president; Mrs. Scott Brandus, vice-president; Mrs. Samuel Tunstall Bland, secretary; Mrs. H. Lane Cooke, librarian.

On Wednesday afternoon the schools, after appropriate exercises, closed for the Christmas holidays. College at Arthur Neustadt left this week for New York to spend the holidays. He will be joined by his wife and children. They will return on January 2, and open their country home on Brick House Farm.

Misses Inez and Margaret Palmer have recently visited their friend, Miss Mildred Woodward, of West Point, who is teaching at Midlothian.

Mrs. Morgan Treat and three daughters, who are spending the winter in Richmond, will open their West Point home and spend the holidays here.

Mrs. L. S. Folkes and infant daughter have gone to Baltimore to spend the rest of the winter with her mother, Mrs. Fletcher Webster.

Mrs. A. J. Crane, of Omaha, Neb., spent several days with Mrs. W. S. Eastwood in town this week. She left on Wednesday morning for Washington, where she expects to visit her son, Edward Crane. Mrs. Crane is a daughter of the late A. W. Eastwood, former Mayor of West Point.

Mrs. W. R. Trigg, of Washington, spent the week-end here with her mother, Mrs. Martha Stark, and returned to her home on Monday morning. She will be remembered as Miss Lee Stark.

Miss Jessie Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Lewis, who spent the fall with relatives in Norfolk, has returned to her home.

Miss Jeannette Hardy, who has been a student at Meridian College, Lutherville, spent a day and night with her aunt, Mrs. R. C. Carden, en route to her home in Chase City.

Richard Bagby, who has been spending sometime with her son, Rev. Richard Bagby, in Wilson, N. C., and later with her son, Dr. Alvin Bagby, in Petersburg, is now visiting another son, Dr. R. R. Bagby, here.

Dr. J. E. McDaniel, of the Virginia, at which time many out-of-town guests will be present.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. McDaniel, of Norfolk, will spend Christmas with Mr. Palmer's mother here and then will go to Appomattox to visit his wife's mother.

Miss Irene Garry, a student of the Normal College, Radford, is at home.

Richard Broadbush, Richard Carr and Jack Clements, of Richmond College, will visit their homes here for the holidays.

Miss Susie Carr will visit her mother, Mrs. A. F. Hargrave.

BUCKINGHAM

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] BUCKINGHAM, Va., December 25.—Charles Johnson, Jr., who has been in business in West Virginia, has come to his old home, near Manteo, to spend several weeks.

Miss Hattie Perkins Haskins, who has been teaching at Maysville, N. C., is at home for the holidays.

T. Houston Antrim and Miss Willie Kyle Christian will be married on January 6. The wedding is to take place at Mount Pleasant.

On Tuesday, December 28, Miss Price Perkins Glover will give a shower party in honor of her friend, Miss W. K. Christian.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Antrim have returned from a pleasant trip to North Carolina.

Misses Hanzford and Hattie Patterson have come to their homes to spend Christmas, after teaching school in North Carolina.

Dr. J. E. Webb, of Newcastle, Va., who is principal of the Buckingham High School, will go to his home for the holidays.

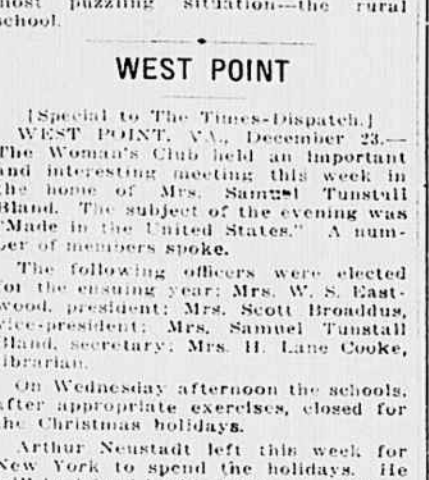
Miss Fannie Glover Haskins paid a visit to her cousin, Mrs. M. J. Cox, on her way home from the Farnville Normal School.

E. W. Hubbard will spend his Christmas in Washington with his son, Dabney Hubbard.

W. J. Hubbard and Mrs. Hubbard will spend Christmas in Richmond with Mrs. Hubbard's relatives.

Miss Emma Gantt Haskins, who is teaching in the Buena Vista High School, came home on Thursday last to spend the holidays.

Short Stories by Virginia Authors



Author of "The Rabbit-Foot at Wellesley."

By Cassie Moncreux Lynk. Author of "The Grito" and "From Alamo to San Jacinto."

"The Rabbit-Foot at Wellesley"

She was the despair of the Employment Bureau—this dainty, attractive, high-bred girl from Virginia, with her graciousness of manner so typically Southern.

Yet she was resolute in her determination to work.

"That is why I came from home," she avowed. "People cannot work in my State and retain their social caste. The South is all a sham of genteel poverty, and has been ever since the war. None of my folks ever did it before—they would not know how."

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"Let me see what he says," interrupted the girl. "Bliss his darling old heart for trying to help me. He married my parents, baptized me and buried my father." She added, a quiver in her voice. The agent handed her the letter, written in the neat old-fashioned script that antedated typewriters.

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"Then I shall put you down as a companion. But remember positions of this kind don't grow on bushes; they were not taken in a day, and you can't expect wonders. But don't get discouraged. If you have nothing better to do, you might sit in my waiting-room. There might be a call this very morning. Never any telling, and you can snap it if you are on the spot. No, this agency does not charge until you are placed, then there's a commission on your salary."

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The novelty of the experience is best told by her letters.

"Boston, Mass., April 1, 1914.

"My Dearest Mother:

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"P. S.—Wouldn't it be fine if I'm here Thanksgiving and could see Harvard play? You bet I would shriek my lungs out over a touchdown; but the cheer in my heart would echo around the rotunda of the U. V. A., and I'll be thinking of our boys wiping up the earth with Tarheels! Though absent in the flesh, I'll be present in the spirit—to cry 'Play Ball, Virginia!' and sing that good old song of 'Wah-Hoo-Wah.'"

"Wellesley, Mass.,

"April 5.

"Darling Mother of Mine,—I do wish you could see these New England farms. Rocks, rocks, rocks! Stones everywhere! Even the fences are built of rocks! I suppose the old Puritans disciplined their souls picking them up and placing them so carefully. Surely, the grace of God was required for such patience. The Cavaliers would have turned in and had a rock battle out of sheer temper over the backlogs. When I contrast our rich river flats with this landscape, believe me, if our soil were in Massachusetts, these clever Yankees would put it in packages and sell it for good."

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